

Ex-784

Entry Count CIANO DiarySeptember 19, 1940

Arrival of Ribbentrop. He is in a good humour and very pleased with the welcome given him by the "applause squad" which was well coached by the Questura. In the car he immediately speaks of the surprise he has in his portfolio; this is the Japanese military alliance which is to be signed in a few days in Berlin. The Russian dream vanished forever in the halls of the Belvedere at Vienna after the guarantees to Rumania were made. He believes that this stroke will have a double edge. Against Russia and against America. The threat of the Japanese fleet will keep the latter from making any move. I express a different opinion: The anti-Russian guarantees are all right; the anti-American note which will induce Washington to increase her commitments to Britain is not so good.

As far as Great Britain is concerned, Ribbentrop says that the weather has been extremely bad and that cloud formations, rather than the RAF, have prevented the final success of the air attacks. However, he says that the attack will be successful as soon as the weather clears for a few days. The landing preparations are complete and a landing is possible. British territorial defenses are nothing to worry about. It will only take one German division to break up the entire defense system.